Notices to drug Companies

1411. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' on the 29th July, 1990 captioned "Centre may issue notice to Drug Industry soon" ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that his Ministry is issuing further notices to Drug Industry for the dues between 1983 to 1987 ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Industry has made hue and cry over notices issued regarding arrears ;

(e) whether it is a fact that companies involved gave an undertaking to deposit the overcharged amount ;

(f) if so, whether it is also a fact that companies have made provisions for meeting the liabilities ; and

(g) if so, what are the reasons for non-remittance of amounts overcharged by drug companies as per the directives of Courts and what steps have been taken to recover the amount in full ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The liabilities tentatively assessed upto December 1983 are being reviewed and finalised first. The liabilities after December, 1983 would be reviewed and finalised in the second phase.

(d) Certain representations on this issue have been received.

(e) Companies involved in the Supreme Court case gave a undertakings to the High Court to pay the difference between the prices allowed by virtue of the stay and the prices that would have prevailed had the stay not been granted.

(f) Yes, Sir. Some companies provisions for their liabilities in their Annual Accounts.

(g) The prices of finalising the liabilities and recovery in accordance with the due procedure of Law, is already in progress.

Overcharged amounts on Combiflame

1412. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 2 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1990 and state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that legal action has not been taken against the manufacturer of Combiflame either by the Drugs Control Directorate of West Bengal or by his Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for withholding the action so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the company has not so far furnished the complete details asked for;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to launch proceedings against the manufacturer;

(e) whether his Ministry have calculated the amount overcharged by the company; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that